



www.friendsoftheblackriver.org

please visit: the Black River or would like more information, If you are interested in joining the Friends of

river and its watershed. making when issues affect the health of the the Black River and promotes wise decision community appreciation and understanding of organization that works to foster a greater The Friends of the Black River is a citizen-led

support its mission: welcome new members and fresh ideas that The Friends of the Black River continually

outreach and land preservation. river clean-up, community educational and programs including stream monitoring, Members are involved in different activities

tributaries.

others own property along the river or its the Black River and along its watershed while association with the river. Some recreate in of citizens that have a strong interest and the Black River group. This group is made up you may be interested in joining the Friends of keeping the Black River watershed healthy,

concerned about River or if you're beauty of the Black If you enjoy the



Canoe Routes

The Black River starts as a small stream flowing out of Black Lake in northern Taylor County. It flows for nearly 200 miles before emptying into the Mississippi River near La Crosse, Wisconsin.



Black River Watershed

The Black River flows through land with sandy, shallow soils and many wetlands. As the water filters through the wetlands, organic acids leach out of decaying wetland plants and other organic material, causing the black coloration of the river. The stained water isn't harmful, and actually limits the growth of noxious algae blooms or nuisance plants that can interfere with recreational activities.

Stewardship

Stewardship is defined as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care". You can be a good steward when using

- Always taking a trash bag with you.
- Carrying out everything you carry in!
- Picking up trash other river users have carelessly left behind.
- Leaving the river cleaner than you found it!
- Learning about local burning regulations for camp fires and
- minimizing their impacts Packing in your own local firewood.
- Observing wildlife from a distance, and respecting their habitat.
- Controlling pets at all times, or leaving them at home.
- Being a good neighbor—don't trespass. The law has changed—sandbars in the river where it flows through private property are private property!

For specific information on paddling routes please open this brochure to the center map.

East Fork of the Black River

This part of the river is scenic but rocky with rapid flowing water. Canoeing is not recommended during low water periods usually found in mid to late summer. Campers are required to register at the East Fork State Campground.

Lake Arbutus to Black River Falls

The upper stretch of this section has rapid flowing water with Class II and III rapids and some granite boulders, the lower section is scenic with Class I

Black River Falls to North Bend

South of Black River Falls, the river is slower and wider with many sandbars and Class I rapids.

Follow these general guidelines:

- No gates to one gate open at the Black River Falls Dam = Safe
- Two gates open = Average/better skill required
- Three or more gates open = Canoeing not recommended due to debris

* Flows are approximately 4,500 cfs per gate.

<u>Flows</u>

The sandy and shallow soils and large watershed of the Black River contribute to the large fluctuations in its flows. Depending on precipitation, flows may exceed 20,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) while low flow conditions in drier months (August) may be less then 100 cfs. Recreational canoeists enjoy traveling on the river with flows from 200-3,000 cfs.

Real-time flows are available on line by visiting: http://waterdata.usgs.gov.

Black River flow at Hatfield available at 1-888-493-7694 (HYDRO WI) updated 10 am.

On & Off the River

Warm water rivers like the Black River tend to have a diverse fish community. Over 20 species of fish inhabit the Black River including the following

game fish: Walleye

- Smallmouth Bass
- Northern Pike
- Muskellunge
- Catfish

The river also contains non-game species such

as Common Carp, White Sucker, Longnose and Shortnose Gar, and Quillback Carpsuckers. Panfish do not prefer flowing water so species like Bluegill, Black Crappie, and Pumpkinseeds are found mostly in impounded areas like the Black River Flowage and Lake Arbutus.

For information on fishing season and limits look for signs at the landing, or contact the Wisconsin DNR.

For Your Safety:

- Bring:
 - A wearable personal floatation device (life jacket) for each person (It's the law!).
 - Sun protection
 - First aid kit
 - Snacks and drinking water
 - Shoes to wear in the river A wet/dry suit when kayaking in
 - coldwater temperatures
- Tell someone your plans
- Pay attention to hazardous weather and the river conditions (snags, overhangs, rocks)
- Boil all river water and use approved tablets or filters before drinking

